

I hereby certify that this correspondence, being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: Box Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on the date shown below.

Dated: April 19, 2002

Signature: Paul B. Stephens

Paul B. Stephens

APR 29 2002

Docket No.: 29020/011A/US
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Jeff Nordorft

Application No.: 09/781,038

Group Art Unit: 3626

Filed: February 9, 2001

Examiner: D. Melwani

For: LATCH SYSTEM FOR A SECTION DOOR

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

This paper is in response to the March 21, 2002 official action.

Reconsideration is requested.

The examiner has requested that the applicant elect a single species for prosecution. The examiner has identified 2 species.

In response to the election requirement, the applicant elects to prosecute the embodiment provided in species 1, i.e., FIGS. 1-13. Claims 1-13, 15, 19-38, 40-42, 46-56, and 61-64 are readable on the species. Per the Examiner, claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 11, 15, 24, 27, 35, 37, 38, 42, 47, 50, 56, 61, 62 and 64 are generic.

Dated: April 19, 2002

Respectfully submitted,

By Paul S.

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FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

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Dear Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

In the Specification

Please insert the following paragraphs on Page 4 at line 15:

A¹ Figure 14 is a front view of another exemplary door latching system in a release position.

Figure 15 is similar to Fig. 14, but with the door latching system in the door blocking position.

Please substitute the paragraph beginning on page 10 at line 9 with the following paragraph:

A² While the embodiment of Figs. 14 and 15 is depicted as using electrical components, it is additionally intended to generically represent the functions performed by the assembled components according to either this embodiment, or that of Figs. 1-13, regardless of whether they are mechanical or electrical components. That is, latch members 24 and 24' can both be